



# COMMANDER NAVY REGION HAWAII

## SAFETY NEWSLETTER

### MAY 2004

[www.hawaii.navy.mil/Safety/index.htm](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil/Safety/index.htm)



#### Death in Waters around Hawaii



In recent months Hawaii has had in excess of ten fatalities and many significant injuries in the surrounding waters as a result of rip tides, freak waves, jelly fish contacts, shark attacks and other water specific hazards. Fishermen, swimmers, surfers and SCUBA divers have been touched by tragedy, and in many cases the extent of the tragedy could have been significantly minimized had some basic precautions been implemented "prior" to their having entered into the activity in which there was the potential for a MISHAP to occur.

There are measures that can be taken to decrease the probability of becoming a statistic when enjoying our waters, they include:

1. Know our personal physical limitations and not place ourselves in a situation in which the outcome is unknown.
2. Utilize the "buddy system" when going into the water.
3. Be alert to posted signs and not ignore them.
4. When walking the shoreline where coral or lava rock areas are found, ensure footwear is appropriate.
5. Observe the water and activities occurring "prior" to entry.
6. Avoid swimming or boarding in waters a sunset/sunrise and where land run-off clouds the water restricting visibility.
7. If caught in an out-going wave, don't become exhausted by struggling against the tide, move at an angle and when clear return to shore.
8. Always ensure somebody knows exactly where we intend to be and which type of water activity we expect to participate in.
9. Having a cell phone available may prove to be invaluable.
10. If drinking alcoholic beverages can impair judgment and physical abilities when operating a motor vehicle and machinery, it certainly follows that consumption of alcoholic beverages would also limit our abilities when involved in water activities.

Enjoy our beautiful waters and implement ORM to protect our families and ourselves while doing so!



#### Employee Report of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Condition

A tripping hazard in the workplace, a government vehicle with a malfunctioning seatbelt, or a missing guard on a grinder, what do all of these have in common?

They are all unsafe or unhealthful working conditions that could possibly injure or even kill someone. So who is responsible for identifying and reporting these hazards?

According to OPNAVINST 5100.23F of 15 July 2002, the Navy's Occupational Safety and Health Program Manual, it is the right and responsibility of all Navy employees, both military and civilian, to report potentially unsafe or unhealthful working conditions.

Since many safety and health problems can be eliminated as soon as they are identified, all Navy employees are encouraged to orally report unsafe and unhealthful conditions to their immediate Supervisor who shall promptly investigate the situation and take appropriate corrective actions. This is the preferred avenue to take because who knows better about a workplace or work processes than the supervisor. Supervisors can contact the Region Safety Department for assistance, if necessary, and supervisors shall inform the reporting employee of all actions taken on their oral reports. The key here is to report all hazards promptly.

Any Navy employee may submit a report of an unsafe or unhealthful working condition directly to the Region Safety Department or their Command Storefront Safety Specialist, using OPNAV 5100/11, Employee Report of Unsafe and Unhealthful Working Condition form. Forms are available at your workplace Safety Bulletin Board or the Navy Region website:

[www.hawaii.navy.mil/Safety/index.htm](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil/Safety/index.htm)

Employees may make an oral report to the Safety Department instead of a written report. Under normal circumstances, the Region Safety Department shall provide an interim or complete response within 10



working days of receiving the report, unless the situation is one of imminent danger, which requires a shorter response time. Employees are encouraged to contact the Safety Department if he or she wants additional information or is dissatisfied with the response.

If the originator of a report is dissatisfied with the assessment made or the action taken to correct the hazard, the employee is encouraged to contact the Safety Department to confer and discuss the matter further. If the originator remains dissatisfied after such discussion, he or she may appeal to the activity's Commanding Officer.

The appeal shall be in writing and should contain a description of the hazard, information on the original reporting and actions taken, and why the results were unsatisfactory and being appealed. There are subsequent appeals up the chain-of-command if still not satisfied with the action taken as a result of the previous appeal. Reporting procedures, rights of appeal and the steps involved are available for your review on your Safety Bulletin Boards or on the Region website.

Keep your eyes and ears open for potential workplace hazards. Reporting is everyone's right and responsibility.

### **The IH Corner** **INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEYS**

Industrial Hygiene surveys. What are they and why do we have them?

Industrial Hygiene Surveys are part of the Occupational Health portion of the NAVOSH Program. An Industrial Hygiene survey is conducted at least once a year in all industrial workplaces to ensure that all Navy employees, both active duty and civilian, are protected against the chemical and physical hazards. Industrial Hygiene surveys are required to be conducted by the Navy because of all the industrial processes required to keep the fleet fit to fight.

Before the survey begins, an Industrial Hygienist (IH) from the Shipyard's Naval Medical Clinic (NMC) sends a formal letter to the Command notifying the Commander that an Industrial Hygiene survey is due. The Storefront Safety Specialist is given the letter with the instructions to coordinate dates and times for the survey to be conducted.

Prior to the commencement of the survey, the IH and Command Storefront Safety Specialist (SSS) in-briefs the CO/OIC of the command. The IH and SSS then commence the survey while being escorted by a workplace representative. At each workplace the IH asks the supervisor and workers questions about their job processes. This is the most critical time of the survey, because the information obtained will help to reduce if not eliminate chemical and physical hazards associated with each job process.

Once the hazards have been identified and evaluated, recommendations are communicated in the form of a report. The report is then sent to the Region IH for verification and then forwarded to the command's SSS, who assures the workplace supervisor implements the recommendations put forth in the report (within budget constraints).

IH surveys are supposed to be scheduled annually for industrial or high hazard workplaces and every two years for administrative work areas. Remember the IH survey is only as good as the information provided to the IH so it behooves everyone to give straightforward answers and to explain any other hazardous operations that you may be exposed to during working hours.

### **May's Training Reminders**

(At Bldg. X-11 unless otherwise noted)

**Indoc (PWC/PACDIV)**

**11 May - 0800-0930**

**Lockout/Tagout**

**13 May - 0715-1100**

**AAA DIP**

**NAVSTA PH**

**17 May - 0700-1530**

**Respirator Training**

**Bldg. 40**

**20 May - 0730-0930**

**Fall Protection Training**

**21 May - 0730-1100**

**AAA (Offender) Training**

**27 May - 0700-1500**

**Motorcycle ERC Course**

**Ford Island**

**28 May - 0730-1430**

### **Safety Director**

**(808) 474-3953, Ext. 358**

### **Mgmt Analyst**

**(808) 474-3953, Ext. 358**

### **Compliance Division**

**(808) 474-3953, Ext. 355**

### **Evaluation Division**

**(808) 474-3953, Ext. 340**

### **Industrial Hygiene Division**

**(808) 474-3953, Ext. 366**